

CAPSULE SUMMARY
BA-0487
Peter Fowble House
3426 Benson Mill Road
Upperco, Baltimore County
ca. 1840
Private

The Peter Fowble House, constructed circa 1840, is located in Upperco in the Fifth District of Baltimore County and is representative of the many Federal style dwellings erected throughout rural Baltimore County in the early to mid- 19th century. Occupied through the mid- to late 19th century by Peter Fowble, the property later passed to Theodore Wilhelm. His ownership of the land is verified by the 1815 county atlas. Signifying the new role that the country had taken following the Revolutionary War, the Federal style of architecture followed dominated American architecture from 1790 to 1830 as an updated architectural style for the new republic. High-style Federal buildings are decorated with carved swags and classical motifs on the exterior as well as the interior. Reflective of vernacular interpretations, particularly as seen in masonry examples, are the side gable roof, the centered entry capped by a transom with tracery, and the symmetrically placed window openings with flat lintels and double-hung sash windows. The architecture of the Peter Fowble House is less ornate, suggesting a more modest interpretation of the popular style.

The two-and-a-half story dwelling sits back from the north side of Benson Mill Road. Constructed of brick laid in Flemish bond, the façade or west elevation is five bays wide. It is set on a random rubble stone foundation and has a side gable roof with asphalt shingles. Three interior end brick chimneys rise above the roof slope with rebuilt stacks and caps of stretcher bond. The central entry consists of a six-panel, single-leaf door that is framed by flat pilasters and a five-light transom. Nine 6/6 windows pierce the façade, all with molded wood surrounds, square-edged wood sills, and brick jack arch lintels. The full-width front porch is five-bays wide with Tuscan columns, a half-hipped roof, and a balustrade with turned balusters. On the south elevation, there is a two-story, two-bay wide brick wing with five-course Flemish bond construction. On the rear of the dwelling sits a two-story brick ell. A two-story addition was constructed on the rear of the ell and a one-story screen-enclosed porch sits to its south. A one-and-a-half story attached garage was constructed on east elevation, with two roll-up paneled doors. Numerous historic resources stand on the property, including a circa 1850 cemetery, hay barn, a tractor shed, two grain silos, a machine shed, and a stable.

Maryland Historical Trust

Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

Inventory No. BA-0487

1. Name of Property (indicate preferred name)

historic Peter Fowble House (preferred)
other Mathias House

2. Location

street and number 3426 Benson Mill Road not for publication
city, town Upperco vicinity
county Baltimore County

3. Owner of Property (give names and mailing addresses of all owners)

name Geroqe D. and Marilyn B. Mathias and Michael B. and Jennifer A. Mathias
street and number 3426 Benson Mill Road telephone Not Available
city, town Upperco state MD zip code 21155-9315

4. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Baltimore County Courthouse liber 12571 folio 378
city, town Towson tax map 26 tax parcel 193 tax ID number 1800014924

5. Primary Location of Additional Data

- ☐ Contributing Resource in National Register District
☐ Contributing Resource in Local Historic District
☐ Determined Eligible for the National Register/Maryland Register
☐ Determined Ineligible for the National Register/Maryland Register
☐ Recorded by HABS/HAER
☐ Historic Structure Report or Research Report at MHT
☐ Other: _____

6. Classification

Category	Ownership	Current Function	Resource Count
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	Contributing
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce/trade	Noncontributing
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> defense	<input type="checkbox"/> buildings
<input type="checkbox"/> site		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> domestic	<input type="checkbox"/> sites
<input type="checkbox"/> object		<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> structures
		<input type="checkbox"/> funerary	<input type="checkbox"/> objects
		<input type="checkbox"/> government	<input type="checkbox"/> Total
		<input type="checkbox"/> health care	
		<input type="checkbox"/> industry	
		<input type="checkbox"/> landscape	
		<input type="checkbox"/> recreation/culture	
		<input type="checkbox"/> religion	
		<input type="checkbox"/> social	
		<input type="checkbox"/> transportation	
		<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	
		<input type="checkbox"/> unknown	
		<input type="checkbox"/> vacant/not in use	
		<input type="checkbox"/> other:	

Number of Contributing Resources previously listed in the Inventory
1

7. Description

Inventory No. BA-0487

Condition

<input type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> altered

Prepare both a one paragraph summary and a comprehensive description of the resource and its various elements as it exists today.

The two-and-a-half story Federal style dwelling, constructed circa 1840, sits back from the north side of Benson Mill Road. Constructed of brick laid in Flemish bond, the façade or west elevation is five bays wide. It is set on a random rubble stone foundation and has a side gable roof with asphalt shingles. Three interior end brick chimneys rise above the roof slope with rebuilt stacks and caps of stretcher bond. The central entry consists of a six-panel, single-leaf door that is framed by flat pilasters and a five-light transom. Nine 6/6 windows pierce the façade, all with molded wood surrounds, square-edged wood sills, and brick jack arch lintels. The full-width front porch is five-bays wide with Tuscan columns, a half-hipped roof, and a balustrade with turned balusters. On the south elevation, there is a two-story, two-bay wide brick wing with five-course Flemish bond construction. On the rear of the dwelling sits a two-story brick ell. A two-story addition was constructed on the rear of the ell and a one-story screen-enclosed porch sits to its south. A one-and-a-half story attached garage was constructed on east elevation, with two roll-up paneled doors.

Numerous historic resources stand on the property, including a circa 1850 cemetery, hay barn, a tractor shed, two grain silos, a machine shed, and a stable. The cemetery has approximately ten gravestones surrounded by a random rubble stone enclosure. Facing south, most of the markers are headstones and footstones of granite or marble. The 1940s hay barn is clad in vertical board siding and has a side gable roof of standing seam metal. The barn has a four-bay wide porch with a half-hipped roof, square posts, and metal brackets. The tractor shed, constructed circa 1950, is two-and-a-half stories in height with concrete block construction on the first story and vertical board at the second. It has a side gable roof with corrugated metal. Three bays of the tractor shed are open. The two grain silos, dating to the middle of the 20th century, are approximately fifty feet in height. Constructed of concrete, the domical roofs are clad in standing seam metal. The circa 1950 machine shed is one-story in height and five bays in width. It has a corrugated metal side gable roof and a concrete block structural system. Four bays of the machine shed are open. The circa 1950 stable is constructed of concrete block and rises two-and-a-half stories in height. It has a front gable roof with corrugated metal and vertical board sliding doors.

Non-historic resources include a 1980s garage, two animal shelters, and an incinerator. The one-story garage is constructed of concrete block. It features a front gable, asphalt shingle roof and a metal-paneled roll-up door. The incinerator, constructed in the 1990s, has a poured concrete foundation and brick walls of stretcher bond with a concrete cap. The two animal shelters were constructed in the last quarter of the 20th century. They feature vertical board cladding, square wood post supports with brackets, and asymmetrical roofs with corrugated metal.

8. Significance

Inventory No. BA-0487

Period	Areas of Significance	Check and justify below		
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> health/medicine	<input type="checkbox"/> performing arts
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> invention	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-1999	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment/ recreation	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 2000-	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> ethnic heritage	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/ settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> social history
	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning		<input type="checkbox"/> maritime history	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation		<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> other:

Specific dates 1840 ca. **Architect/Builder** Unknown

Construction dates 1840 ca.

Evaluation for:

☐ National Register ☐ Maryland Register ☒ not evaluated

Prepare a one-paragraph summary statement of significance addressing applicable criteria, followed by a narrative discussion of the history of the resource and its context. (For compliance projects, complete evaluation on a DOE Form – see manual.)

The Peter Fowble House, constructed circa 1840, is located in Upperco in the Fifth District of Baltimore County and is representative of the many Federal style dwellings erected throughout rural Baltimore County in the early to mid- 19th century. Occupied through the mid- to late 19th century by Peter Fowble, the property later passed to Theodore Wilhelm. His ownership of the land is verified by the 1815 county atlas.¹ Signifying the new role that the country had taken following the Revolutionary War, the Federal style of architecture followed dominated American architecture from 1790 to 1830 as an updated architectural style for the new republic. High-style Federal buildings are decorated with carved swags and classical motifs on the exterior as well as the interior. Reflective of vernacular interpretations, particularly as seen in masonry examples, are the side gable roof, the centered entry capped by a transom with tracery, and the symmetrically placed window openings with flat lintels and double-hung sash windows. The architecture of the Peter Fowble House is less ornate, suggesting a more modest interpretation of the popular style.²

¹ J.C. Sidney, *Map of the City and County of Baltimore, Maryland, from Original Surveys* (Baltimore, MD: James M. Stephens, 1850); see also *Atlas of Baltimore County, Maryland* (Philadelphia, PA: G.M. Hopkins, 1877) and *Map of Baltimore County* (Philadelphia, PA: G.W. Bromley, 1915).

² Rachel Carley, *The Visual Dictionary of American Domestic Architecture* (New York, NY: Henry Holt and Company, 1994), p. 91.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Inventory No. BA-0487

- Atlas of Baltimore County, Maryland.* Philadelphia, PA: G. M. Hopkins, 1877.
Baltimore County Historic Inventory.
Brooks, Neal A. and Eric G. Rockel. *A History of Baltimore County.* Towson, MD: Friends of the Towson Library, Inc., 1979.
Map of Baltimore County. Philadelphia, PA: G. W. Bromley, 1915.
Scharf, J. Thomas. *History of Baltimore City and County From the Earliest Period to the Present Day: Including Biographical Sketches of Their Representative Men.* Philadelphia, PA: Louis H. Everts, 1881. Reprinted by Higginson Book Company, Salem, MA.
Sidney, J. C. *Map of the City and County of Baltimore, Maryland, from Original Surveys.* Baltimore, MD: James M. Stephens, 1850.

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of surveyed property	52.40 Acres	
Acreage of historical setting	Unknown	
Quadrangle name	Hampstead	Quadrangle scale: 1:24,000

Verbal boundary description and justification

The Mathias House has been associated with Tax Map 26, Parcel 193 since its construction circa 1840. It is located at 3426 Benson Mill Road in Upperco in the Fifth District of Baltimore County.

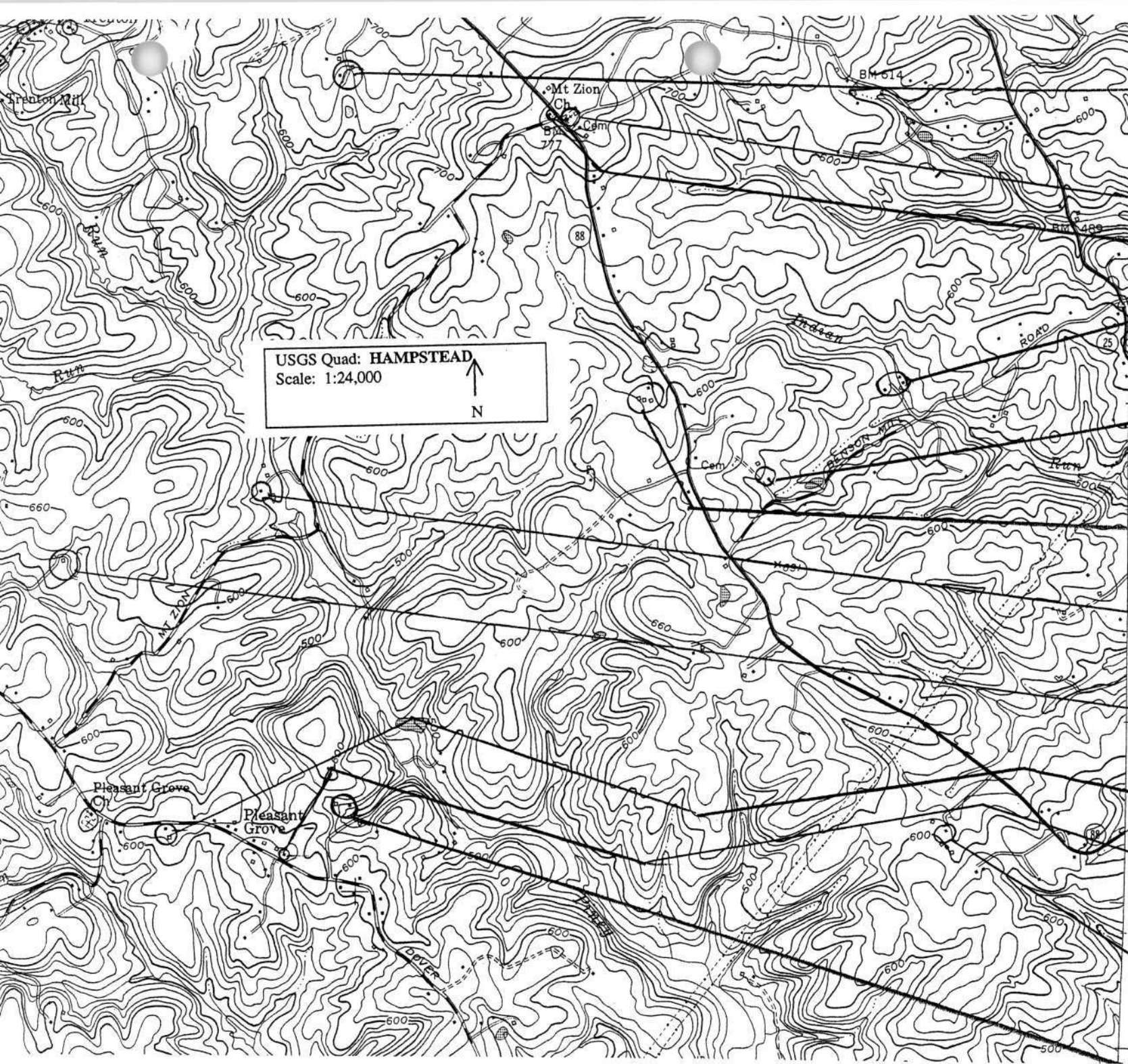
11. Form Prepared by

name/title	R. Weidlich, A. McDonald and A. Didden, Architectural Historians		
organization	EHT Tracerics, Incorporated	date	May 31, 2001
street & number	1121 5th Street NW	telephone	202.393.1199
city or town	Washington	state	DC

The Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 supplement.

The survey and inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

return to: Maryland Historical Trust
DHCD/DHCP
100 Community Place
Crownsville, MD 21032-2023
410-514-7600



USGS Quad: HAMPSTEAD
Scale: 1:24,000
N

BALTIMORE COUNTY

BA-0482
4017 BLACK ROCK ROAD
UPPER LO
BALTIMORE COUNTY

BA-0484
3600 BLACK ROCK
ROAD
BA-0483

BA-0488
3220 BENSON MILL ROAD
UPPER LO
BALTIMORE COUNTY

BA-0487
3426 BENSON MILL RD
UPPER LO
BALTIMORE COUNTY

BA-0486

BA-0494
4242 MT. ZION ROAD
UPPER LO
BALTIMORE COUNTY

BA-0548
15627 DARK HOLLOW ROAD
UPPER LO
BALTIMORE COUNTY

BA-0556
15276 DOVER ROAD

BA-1163
15225 DOVER ROAD
REISTERSTOWN
BALTIMORE COUNTY

BA-0490
3115 BLACK ROCK ROAD
GLYNDEN, BALTIMORE COUNTY



BA-487

3426 BENSON MILL ROAD

UPPERCO

BALTIMORE COUNTY, MD

TRACERIES

APRIL 2001

MD SHPO

WEST ELEVATION

1 OF 5



BA-487

3426 BENSON MILL ROAD

UPPERCO

BALTIMORE COUNTY, MD

TRACERIES

APRIL 2001

MD SHPO

NORTH ELEVATION

2 OF 5



BA-487

3426 BENSON MILL ROAD

UPPER CO

BALTIMORE COUNTY, MD

TRACERIES

APRIL 2001

MD SHPO

SOUTH ELEVATION

3 OF 5



BA-487

3426 BENSON MILL ROAD

UPPERCO

BALTIMORE COUNTY, MD

TRACERIES

APRIL 2001

MD SHPO

CEMETERY + OUTBUILDINGS

4 OF 5



BA-487

3426 BENSON MILL ROAD

UPPERCO

BALTIMORE COUNTY, MD

TRACERIES

APRIL 2001

MD SHPO

OUTBUILDINGS

5 OF 5

MEMORANDUM

TO: THE FILE

BA-487, the Mathias Farm, or Fairview, Baltimore County

The current owner of the property is discussing the donation of an easement to the Maryland Environmental Trust. It seems as though it will be finalized in the near future. The house appears, from the slides at MET, to be an early 19th century two story, five bay brick house with a porch across its principal facade. There is an original two story addition out the back for the original kitchen.

A third section appears to be twentieth century. There are numerous barns which appear to be 20th century.

From: Michael Bourne

134-487

MATHIAS HOUSE - Before 1850 - 3426 Benson Mill Road (north side 0.2 mile east of Black Rock Road). Large L-shaped, two-story brick house in Federal style, gable-roofed; full width front porch; wide inside end-chimneys; two-segments in main facade; shown as Peter Fowble's by both 1850 map and 1877 atlas. Owner: Alfred L. Mathias.